AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A method for searching for data in one or more heterogeneous data sources within a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for data at a federated data source; and

selecting a server to process the request based on a load of the server and based on whether the server can satisfy the request for data, said server connected to one or more heterogeneous datastores.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising forwarding the request to the selected server.

3. (original): The method of claim 2, further comprising forwarding additional requests for similar data to the selected server.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the server is within a server hierarchy.

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5.   (previously presented): The method of claim 4, further comprising, upon receiving a request to add another server, connecting the server to an existing server in the server hierarchy based on a number of connections of the existing server.

6.   (previously presented): The method of claim 4, further comprising, upon receiving a request to delete an existing server in the hierarchy, deleting that server.

7.   (previously presented): An apparatus for searching for data in one or more heterogeneous data sources, comprising:

        a computer system having one or more heterogeneous data sources; and

        one or more computer programs, performed by the computer system, for receiving a request for data at a federated data source and selecting a server to process the request based on a load of the server and based on whether the server can satisfy the request for data, said server connected to one or more heterogeneous datastores.

8.   (original): The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising forwarding the request to the selected server.

9.   (original): The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising forwarding additional requests for similar data to the selected server.

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10.   (original): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the server is within a server hierarchy.

11.   (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising, upon receiving a request to add another server, connecting the server to an existing server in the server hierarchy based on a number of connections of the existing server.

12.   (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising, upon receiving a request to delete an existing server in the hierarchy, deleting that server.

13.   (previously presented): An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer system and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer system to perform method steps for searching for data in one or more heterogeneous data sources within a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

      receiving a request for data at a federated data source; and

      selecting a server to process the request based on a load of the server and based on whether the server can satisfy the request for data, said server connected to one or more heterogeneous datastores.

14.   (original): The article of manufacture of claim 13, further comprising forwarding the

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request to the selected server.

15.   (original): The article of manufacture of claim 14, further comprising forwarding

additional requests for similar data to the selected server.

16.   (original): The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the server is within a server

hierarchy.

17.   (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 16, further comprising, upon

receiving a request to add another server, connecting the server to an existing server in the server

hierarchy based on a number of connections of the existing server.

18.   (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 16, further comprising, upon

receiving a request to delete an existing server in the hierarchy, deleting that server.

19.   (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said load of the server is based

on at least the ratio of a current load of the server and a maximum load of the server.

20.   (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said load of the server is based

on at least the ratio of a current load of the server and a maximum load of the server.

21.   (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein said load of the

server is based on at least the ratio of a current load of the server and a maximum load of the

server.

22.   (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the server is a Remote Method Invocation server.

23.   (new): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the server is a Remote Method Invocation

server.

24.   (new): The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the server is a Remote Method

Invocation server.